United States Department of Jus

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
879 UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203

REFER REPLY TO

October 30, 1968

Mr. Robert G. Jensen
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
167 N. Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Jensen:

Following up on my telephone conversation of October 30th with Mr. Halter of your office, this letter is to give you information about the Ray case in Memphis for whatever it is worth.

Mr. James Squires, a reporter for The Nashville Tennessean who is assigned to cover the Ray murder trial, called me at home last night and gave me the following information:

(1) That he recently wrote a series of stories about Ray's defense that were picked up and moved by the Associated Press. In these stories he stated that Ray was going to say that a man named Raoul (phonetic) met Ray in Montreal and either gave or promised him money for taking certain actions which Ray now contends made him a foil in the murder of Martin Luther King. This story described Raoul as a blond Latin, perhaps a seaman.

(2) At approximately 8:30 p.m., October 29th, Squires received a long distance telephone call described by the long distance operator as a call from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The man calling from Winnipeg gave his name as Don Appell and said he was an investigator for Richard Giesbrecht from Winnipeg.

Halter

(3) The man said he had read the Associated Press article giving Squires as the source of the information contained in the article. He asked Squires what else Ray had said in addition to the facts contained in the article and particularly wanted to know more about what Ray said about Raoul. Squires advised Appell that he had never talked to Ray and that his information came about this matter from a recent Look magazine article.

(4) Appell then said that he is interested in the matter because Giesbrecht told Appell that Raoul's description matches the description of the man whom Giesbrecht testified before the Warren Commission about. Apparently Giesbrecht testified before the Warren Commission that in 1963, in the Montreal Airport, Giesbrecht overheard a conversation, the contents of which were a plot on the life of President Kennedy.

(5) Appell told Squires to call him back if he got any additional information and Appell gave as his home phone number 452-8468 in Winnipeg and said that he has a telephone in his automobile, the number for which is JL8-3368.

(6) Squires said Appell did not sound like a "nut" but he could not be sure.

Sincerely,

Gilbert S. Merritt, Jr.

GILBERT S. MERRITT, JR.
United States Attorney

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